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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9005
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0159
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 9056

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000135

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - WESTERN HEMISPHERE: CUBA, GOVERNANCE; SAO
PAULO

Title- "Darkness at noon" in Cuba

Editorial in center-right O Estado de S. Paulo (3-10) states:
"....seven decades after the infamous Moscow Processes that allowed
Josef Stalin to exterminate imaginary enemies of the Bolshevik
elite, here the same pattern resurfaces on the unfortunate island of
Castro, with the only difference being that in this case, the purged
ones remain alive, bearing the humiliation of the farce they agreed
to take part in to 'continue serving the Revolution'.....in the
Castro brothers gerontocracy there is nothing to be remodeled in
politics or in economy. Because there is not a political life or a
modern economy. We must await the death of the last of them [Castro
brothers] to see what comes next."

Title- Purges show new challenges to Cuban regime

Editorial in business oriented Valor Econmico (3-10) says: "...In
Cuba internal problems also mirror external challenges. With Barack
Obama's arrival to power in the archrival U.S. and his gestures of a
change in U.S. relations with Cuba, Raul Castro will [probably] be
in an uncommon position....- [to see] a proposal for peace and
understanding [between Cuba and the U.S]. This is something
absolutely encouraging, but equally dangerous for the Cuban
bureaucrats, that they maintain a majority of their popularity
thanks to the memories of the attempted Cuban invasion [Bay of
Pigs], the odious economic embargo and the antagonistic political
myopia from U.S presidents in relation to the island. This way, a
"closure" of the regime, unveiled by the purging [of Cuban
officials], would be a preparation for the dialogue with the U.S.
and not a negation".

WHITE